

A₁
cont'd

6. (Once Amended) The process of claim 5, wherein in step (b) the liquid water phase has a pH of below 7.

7. (Once Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the pH of the liquid water phase is between 4 and 6.

8. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the starting emulsion has a water content of between 1-40% by weight, a surfactants content of between 0.01-5% by weight and an oil content of between 60-85% by weight, wherein the oil alone has a viscosity of above 305 Pa.s at 20°C.

9. (Once Amended) The gasification process for preparing synthesis gas, wherein a liquid bituminous oil is obtained according to the process of claim 1 and wherein said liquid bituminous oil, having a temperature of above 140°C, is fed to a gasification unit in which synthesis gas is obtained.

A₂
10. (Once Amended) The use of the oil phase obtained in the process of claim 1 having a temperature of above 140 °C as feedstock in a gasification process.

Respectfully submitted,

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